

nothing been done toward the cleaning up of Chinatown, there would have been at least one hundred deaths from plague in the month of October, and many more in November. It is evident from Dr. Currie's paper that strong measures should be adopted looking toward the reduction in the rat supply of San Francisco. In the direction of cleaning up, disinfecting, improving sanitary conditions, etc., the authorities are doing splendid work and are to be highly commended. They are also doing what they can to stop the increase of rats, but their resources are very limited.

It will be seen from a careful reading of Dr. Currie's paper, that the most promising method of getting rid of rats is the payment

**BOUNTY ON RATS.** Obviously, if the bounty is a permanent thing, certain persons would very soon undertake the breeding of rats for the bounty. The period of gestation of the rat is forty days. Now suppose the bounty is offered for say forty or fifty days, and then discontinued for two months. It would probably be a week before anyone undertook the breeding of rats; forty days would elapse before they littered, and probably two weeks before they were of a proper size for offering for the bounty. But before they would thus be ready for the "market", the bounty would be withdrawn. It would hardly pay the breeder to feed his rats for two months in order to thus eventually get the small amount of bounty, and they would either be killed or turned loose. The plan need not, if adopted, necessitate the expenditure of a vast amount of money. If say ten cents bounty is offered for the first period of fifty days, and five or six cents for subsequent periods, after a lapse of suspended-bounty for two months between bounty-paying periods, probably a goodly reduction in the overabundant rat supply would be effected; an object greatly to be desired, in view of the continuance of infected rats.

The JOURNAL would bespeak your careful attention to the Table of Synonyms, page 416, which it publishes with additions from

**TABLE OF SYNONYMS.** month to month. The compilation of this table has required very hard and careful work, covering many weeks time, for the information there given is not easy, in most cases, to secure. Especially is this true in relation to the synthetics of German parentage. The various dye houses that have in the last few years undertaken the extensive manufacture and exploitation of remedies or materia medica products, have developed sundry curious business details that are as a rule un-

known to the physician. For instance, one manufacturer will put out a newly discovered and generally patented preparation having certain definite properties. Another concern will see that the first preparation or chemical is selling well, and it will then put out a similar preparation, adding, however, a few atoms of something, just enough not to infringe the patent rights of its competing dye house, nor to materially effect the action of the chemical. The result is that both can claim distinction in the matter of formula and therapeutic effect, while the fact remains that they are, to all intents, identical so far as any therapeutic value or action is concerned. The JOURNAL will be very glad to receive any suggestions in regard to this department, or any additions to the table of synonyms.

The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* published an excellent article by Dr. Geo. M. Gould, on the "Ill Health of Francis Parkman," in which Dr. Gould demonstrated, to the satisfaction of any ordinary individual, the fact that Parkman's ill health was almost undoubtedly due to uncorrected eyestrain. The *Boston Journal* thought Dr. Gould somewhat of a "crank" on this subject of eyestrain, and editorially told him so, in the most polite of Bostonese. Dr. Gould, who is well and thoroughly conversant with Bostonese and sees quickly what its English equivalent is, did not like to be called a crank, and so "came back" at the *Boston M. and S. J.* But there remained somewhat more of Boston diction, and the journal in question again commented editorially on Dr. Gould's letter. (There seems to be lacking a sense of humor, somewhere, in the vicinity of Boston). "We must, therefore, reiterate our opinion that Dr. Gould is an extremist in his advocacy of a theory which *unquestionably stands on a basis of scientific fact*". (Italics ours). Dr. Gould ought certainly to be satisfied with that; in the course of time probably Boston will advocate a theory that has a "basis of scientific fact." Perhaps the thing that rankles is the possibility that the population of Boston may not have been quite accurately refracted, and that a change of glasses may be necessary!

The temptation, ably resisted, was strong upon us to write "the Fool Killer", instead of the Toy Pistol. Since the publication in the *Journal A. M. A.*, of a long and masterly summary of the deaths from tetanus due to the 4th-of-July-toy-pistol accidents, the medical press of the country has had a spasm. Editorial after editorial has been written, and resolutions have been passed; we publish elsewhere in this number of the JOURNAL (at special request), a sample set of resolutions.